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UNCLAS COLOMBO 001877

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MALDIVES: IRANIAN PRESIDENT'S EXTREMISM

REF: STATE 199225

(SBU) The Ambassador presented reftel demarche in an October 31 meeting in Colombo with Maldivian Foreign Minister Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, underlining the gravity of US concerns at the Iranian President's public invective against Israel. The Ambassador encouraged the Maldivian government to make a public statement condemning the remarks. Shaheed concurred that the Iranian President's remarks were cause for concern and agreed to weigh the possibility of a public statement.
LUNSTEAD